

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



**LITTER AND RECYCLING GRANT PROGRAM ANNUAL PERFORMANCE
AND ACCOUNTING SUMMARY REPORT**

GRANT YEAR 2021



Litter pickup and recycling events from various localities in Virginia

March 2022

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

This report summarizes the litter prevention and recycling program expenses and activities conducted in grant year (GY) 2021 by the local government recipients of the annual litter and recycling grants.

The Commonwealth of Virginia collects three “litter” taxes to support litter prevention and recycling program activities in Virginia. The three taxes are comprised of a beer and wine coolers tax, a soft drink tax, and a retail establishment fixed fee of \$20 or \$30. Collectively referred to as the “litter taxes,” the revenues collected are deposited into the Litter Control and Recycling Fund (fund). Since 1981, over \$70 million has been paid into the fund to support litter control and recycling programs. The annual uses of these funds as specified by legislation are:

- 95 percent – Non-competitive and competitive grants to localities (local government grants)
- 5 percent - Grant administrative costs - Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The guidelines for these grants are overseen by the Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board (Board) and DEQ provides program and financial administration of the annual grants. The Board meets annually to track the status of the fund and the progress of the annual grant program. The Board is appointed by the Governor and consists of five members as follows:

- Three members shall represent persons paying the taxes that are deposited into the fund and shall include one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing retailers; one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing soft drink distributors; and one member appointed from nominations submitted by recognized industry associations representing beer distributors.
- One member shall be a local litter or recycling coordinator.
- One member shall be from the general public.

At the conclusion of each grant year, the local government grant recipients must submit performance and accounting reports to DEQ on the activities and expenses for which the grant funds were used. The data contained in this report was compiled from the information submitted by the grant recipients and certified by one of their authorized agents.

FUNDING FOR GRANT YEAR 2021

Funding for Grant Year 2021

In GY2021, \$1,708,156 was disbursed from the litter fund to 305 of 324 localities. Non-competitive litter grants are calculated by population and road miles and do not take into consideration how much money the local government receives from other sources in support of its programs. The number of local governments applying for the grants varies from year-to-year.

Many localities use other sources of funds to augment their grant award. Programs reported almost \$16 million in cash from local funds, private sources, and other revenues.

In addition to cash, a number of localities rely upon in-kind services to carry out their program activities. Local programs valued their in-kind donations at \$3,172,730 including volunteer work.

In GY2021, local governments matched the \$1,708,156 awarded in grant funds with \$19,437,533 from other sources of money and in-kind services. This represented a funding match of 1,138%.

The local litter prevention and recycling programs may be managed or operated by a single locality (city, county, or town), or by a group of localities (referred to as a "cooperative program").

Single local government applications:
143

Co-op applications: 44

Total grants disbursed: 187

Total localities served: 305

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR GRANT YEAR 2021

Performance Details for Grant Year 2021

STAFFING AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT LEVEL

Most programs have at least one full-time or part-time employee who is typically assisted by volunteers. Volunteers play a critical role in each program's success. At a standard rate of \$24.49 per hour, the value of the service provided by volunteers during GY2021 was **\$2,618,590**.

CLEANUPS

Each year, local programs sponsor a variety of cleanup programs where volunteers donate their time to clean up areas where litter is present or where illegal dumping of solid waste has occurred. A total of **3,465** cleanup events, utilizing a total of **31,966** volunteers, cleaned **15,315** cubic yards of litter in GY2021.



Virginia Beach Volunteers Cleanup in Marshview Park in April 2021

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR GRANT YEAR 2021



Junior Federated Women's Club of Chester Cleanup in Chester in April 2021



Neighborhood Cleanup in the Prentis PI Community in June 2021

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR GRANT YEAR 2021

YOUTH EDUCATION

The majority of local programs included a youth education component. These activities included presentations and workshops in schools, involvement in "ecology clubs" and other educational events such as Earth Day celebrations. Last year, the local government grant recipients reported that **565** presentations, workshops, or other educational events for young people were conducted. The total number of youth attending these activities was reported as **14,273**. The total number of ecology clubs reported for GY2021 is **45** with **862** members.



*Keep Norton Clean Poster Contest
in the City of Norton in April 2021*



*Roadside Cleanup by Charles City
High School in the Fall of 2021*

PUBLIC EDUCATION (NOT REPORTED AS YOUTH EDUCATION)

Community outreach is a major component of many of the local litter and recycling programs. Community outreach activities may include booths, presentations, and unstaffed displays, such as bulletin boards and posters. Litter and recycling program managers reported that they conducted **321** workshops with an estimated **16,304** people in attendance. There were **504** staffed displays or events that were viewed by approximately **167,018** people. Program managers reported that in GY2021 there were **375** unstaffed displays in Virginia.

ASSIGN-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

The Assign-A-Highway program continues as a litter prevention/cleanup initiative in the Commonwealth. Under this program, area judges offer probationers the opportunity to work with the locality's litter program to clean up assigned sections of roads and highways during their probationary period. For GY2021, grantees reported **7,595** cubic yards of litter were collected by **3,193** probationers along **12,056** miles of roads.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS FOR GRANT YEAR 2021

PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Local governments that received grants for GY2021 were asked to estimate the percentage of their grant funds used specifically for the litter prevention program activities and the percentage of their grant funds used specifically for recycling program activities. Approximately **57 percent** was reported as being used for litter prevention while **43 percent** was reported as having been spent to support recycling.

ESTIMATED PERCENT GRANT FUNDING TO SUPPORT LITTER PREVENTION AND RECYCLING

DESCRIPTION	PERCENTAGE
Grant funds used for litter prevention program activities	57%
Grant funds used for recycling program activities	43%

Note: The percentage of funding utilized for litter and recycling is subjectively based upon estimates provided by the grant recipients. These percentages also are based only on the grant funds awarded to localities by DEQ. This percentage of funding does not take into account any other monies that the local governments may have received from other sources or had budgeted for these programs from their general operation funds.

DATA TABLES FOR GRANT YEAR 2021

Data Tables for Grant Year 2021

SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTED DATA COMPARING GY2021 TO GY2020

DESCRIPTION	GY2021	GY2020
Funds Distributed from Litter Tax	\$1,708,156	\$1,523,060
Total Localities Funded	305	305
Locality Cash Match Total	\$15,985,548	\$14,175,971
Locality In-Kind Match Totals	\$498,167	\$368,174
Number of Volunteer Hours Worked	106,925	105,337
Cleanup Events	3,465	2,738
Volunteers	31,966	21,647
Cubic Yards of Litter Collected	50,357	16,224
Youth Presentations, Workshops, or other Educational Events	565	591
Youth Attending	14,273	26,034
Ecology Clubs	45	65
Ecology Club Members	862	1,370
Number of Probationers	3,193	5,933
Number of Road Miles Cleaned	12,056	16,842
Cubic Yards of Litter Collected	27,540	14,172

CASH MATCH FUND BREAKDOWN

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Local Cash	\$ 15,985,548
Private Sector Cash	\$ 59,607
Other Cash	\$ 219,648
Total	\$ 16,264,803

IN-KIND (ALL OTHER FUND SOURCES) MATCH FUND BREAKDOWN

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Local In-Kind	\$ 498,167
Private In-Kind	\$ 51,317
Other In-Kind	\$ 4,656
Total	\$ 554,140

DATA TABLES FOR GRANT YEAR 2021

EXPENSES

Litter Prevention and Recycling programs used their grant funds for expenses in the following categories:

GY2021 EXPENSES

USE OF GRANT FUNDS	GY2021 EXPENSES	USAGE PERCENT
Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$669,921	39.2%
Essential Supplies	\$580,428	34.0%
Contractual Services	\$450,619	26.4%
Travel	\$6,059	0.4%
Other	\$1,775	0.1%
Total Grant Funds	\$ 1,708,802*	100%

*May include unspent funds rolled over from previous years

STAFFING

GY2021 EMPLOYED STAFF

DESCRIPTION	NUMBER
Number of Full-Time and Part-Time Employees	755
Number of Hours Worked	808,994

DATA TABLES FOR GRANT YEAR 2021

PROGRAM PROMOTION

The fund guidelines require reporting on the kinds of materials the litter program managers distribute; however, the quantity does not need to be reported. In addition, litter program managers cannot use their grant funds for advertising though it may be donated and is included in this report as an in-kind match.

GY2021 MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

TYPES OF MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED	NUMBER OF LOCALITIES**
Litter Bags	63
Pencils	41
Stickers	30
Coloring Books	35
Other*	68

**Other materials distributed include bookmarks, buttons, certificates, cups, gloves, hand sanitizer, key chains, litter grabbers, magnets, memo pads, pocket ash trays, recycling bins, rulers, tote bags, water bottles, wrist bands, etc.*

GY2021 COMMUNICATION TYPES

TYPES OF COMMUNICATION	NUMBER OF LOCALITIES**
Brochures	51
Websites	73
Emails	64
Newspapers	49
Newsletters	31
Public Service Radio Announcements	17
Facebook	82
Public Service Television Announcements	16
Twitter	18
Other*	37

**Other materials distributed include banners, blogs, bumper stickers, booklets, calendars, fliers, post card mailers, presentations at public town meetings and other interest groups, school and government marquees, signage, and YouTube.*

***For this purpose, coops are counted as a single locality.*

WEBSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Website and Contact Information

WEBSITE

To obtain additional information about the Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant Program, visit [DEQ's website](#).

CONTACT

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